

# Montana Body Donation Program – Retention Request Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that partner institutions utilizing cadavers provided by the Montana Body Donation Program can retain sufficient anatomical specimens for ongoing educational purposes while respecting the integrity of the MBDP and the wishes of the donors.

## General Principles

- Specimens retained must serve the educational mission of the institution and align with the size and scope of its anatomy program.
- All specimens must be handled and stored according to ethical, legal, and safety standards. Specimens must be maintained in good condition.
- Retention of specimens must not compromise the program's ability to recall specimens if requested.

## General Retention Framework

Partner institutions may retain **one appendage** and **either**:

1. **Small samples from multiple organ or regional systems**, or
2. **Large specimens from one or two organ or regional systems**.

The intent is to balance variety and depth, allowing institutions to maintain a collection sufficient for their program size and focus.

## Permissible Retention Options

### 1. **One Appendage:**

- Institutions are allowed to retain a single appendage, which may include the head or a limb (e.g., arm or leg).
- This is intended for focused study of regional anatomy, and may include the associated soft tissues, bones, and vasculature.

### 2. **Small Samples from a Variety of Systems:**

- Institutions may retain small specimens representing multiple organ or regional systems for broad, diverse anatomical teaching.
- Examples of small samples include:
  - Histological samples from major organs
  - Individual organs or parts of organs, such as:
    - One kidney
    - A single lobe of the liver or one lung
    - A section of the spleen
    - A single adrenal gland
    - Spinal cord or brain

### 3. **Large Specimens from Fewer Systems:**

- Institutions may retain larger, more comprehensive dissections from one or two systems for in-depth study.
- Examples of large specimens include:

- The entire brain and spinal cord
- Both lungs with the trachea
- A complete gastrointestinal tract in continuity
- The urogenital system (e.g., kidneys, bladder, reproductive organs)
- A hand or foot dissection

## Additional Notes

By adhering to this framework, institutions can maintain an appropriate balance of anatomical variety and depth in their retained specimens.

- **Balance and Purpose:** Retention should align with the institution's program size and educational goals, ensuring specimens serve a meaningful teaching purpose.
- **Ethical Compliance:** All retained specimens must comply with program regulations and ethical guidelines.
- **Documentation and Review:** Institutions must request and document all retained specimens and ensure proper handling, storage, and use.